

VIR

4. Unjustly assailant; murderous.
Some *violent* hands were laid on Humphry's life. *Shakefp.*
A foe subtle or *violent*. *Milton.*
5. Unfeanably vehement.
We might be reckoned fierce and *violent*, to tear away
that, which, if our mouths did condemn, our consciences
would storm and repine thereat. *Hooker.*
The covetous extortioner should remember, that such *vio-*
lents shall not take heaven, but hell by force. *Decay of Piety.*
6. Extorted; not voluntary.
Vows made in pain, are *violent* and void. *Milton.*
VIOLENTLY, *adv.* [from *violent*.] With force; forcibly; ve-
hemently.
Temp'rately proceed to what you would.
Thus *violently* redress. *Shakefp. Coriolanus.*
Flame burneth more *violently* towards the sides, than in the
middle. *Bacon.*
Ancient privileges must not, without great necessities, be
revoked, nor forfeitures be exacted *violently*, nor penal laws
urged rigorously. *Taylor's Rule of living holy.*
- VIOLET**, *n. f.* [*viollette*, Fr. *viola*, Lat.] A plant.
It hath a polypetalous anomalous flower, somewhat re-
sembling the papilionaceous flower; for its two upper petals
represent the standard, the two side ones the wings; but the
lower one, which ends in a tail, resembles the iris. Out of
the empalement arises the pointal, which becomes a three-cor-
nered fruit opening into three parts, and full of roundish
seeds. There are nine species. *Miller.*
When daisies pied, and *violets* blue,
Do paint the meadows much bedight. *Shakefp.*
Sweet echo, sweetest nymph that liv'st unseen,
By flow Meander's margent green,
And in the *violet*-embroider'd vale. *Milton.*
It alters not our simple idea, whether we think that blue
be in the *violet* itself, or in our mind only; and only the
power of producing it by the texture of its parts, to be in
the *violet* itself. *Locke.*
- VIOLIN**, *n. f.* [*violon*, Fr. from *viol*.] A fiddle; a stringed
instrument of musick.
Praise with timbrels, organs, flutes;
Praise with *violins*, and lutes. *Sandys.*
Sharp *violins* proclaim
Their jealous pangs, and desperation,
For the fair disdainful dame. *Dryden.*
- VIOLIST**, *n. f.* [from *viol*.] A player on the viol.
- VIOLOCE'LLO**, *n. f.* [Italian.] A stringed instrument of
musick.
- VIPER**, *n. f.* [*vipera*, Lat.]
1. A serpent of that species which brings its young alive, of
which most are poisonous.
A *viper* came out of the heat, and fastened on his
hand. *Acts xxviii. 3.*
He'll gall of asps with thrifty lips suck in;
The *viper's* deadly teeth shall pierce his skin. *Sandys.*
Viper-catchers have a remedy, in which they place such
great confidence, as to be no more afraid of the bite of a
viper, than of a common puncture. This is no other than
axungia viperina, presently rubbed into the wound. *Derham.*
2. Any thing mischievous.
Where is this *viper*,
That would depopulate the city, and
Be every man himself? *Shakefp. Coriolanus.*
- VIPERINE**, *n. f.* [*viperinus*, Lat.] Belonging to a viper.
- VIPEROUS**, *adj.* [*viperous*, Lat. from *viper*.] Having the qua-
lities of a *viper*.
My tender years can tell,
Civil dissention is a *viperous* worm,
That gnaws the bowels of the commonwealth. *Shakefp.*
We are peremptory to dispatch
This *viperous* traitor. *Shakefp.*
Some *viperous* critick may bereave
Th' opinion of thy worth for some defect. *Daniel's Musaph.*
- VIPER'S BUGLOSS**, *n. f.* [*echium*, Lat.] A plant.
The characters are, the cup of the flower is large, and
divided into five long slender segments; the flower consists of
one leaf, is shaped like a funnel, and somewhat inflected,
having its upper part stretched, but in a greater length than
the lower: the upper part, or galea of the flower, is divided
into two; and the lower part, or beard, into three parts: in
the middle of the flower are produced five stamina (or
threads) which are reflexed. Each flower is succeeded by
four seeds, which are in form of a viper's head. *Miller.*
- VIPER'S GRASS**, *n. f.* [*scorzonera*, Lat.] A plant.
It hath a semi-flocculous flower, consisting of many half
florets, which rest upon the embryos, which are included in
one common empalement, which is scaly: the embryos af-
terwards become oblong seeds, which are furnished with
down. *Miller.*
- VIRAGO**, *n. f.* [Latin.]
1. A female warrior; a woman with the qualities of a man.
Melpomene represented like a *virago* or manly lady, with
a majestic and grave countenance. *Peacham.*

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- To arms! to arms! the fierce *virago* cries,
And swift as lightning to the combat flies. *Pope.*
2. It is commonly used in detestation for an impudent turbulent
woman.
VIR'ELAY, *n. f.* [*virrelai*, Fr.] A sort of little an-
cient French poem, that consisted only of two rhymes and
short verses, with strops. *L'Acad.*
The mournful muse in mirth now lift ne mask,
As she was wont in youth and summer days;
But if thou algate lust like *virrelays*,
And looser songs of love to underlong,
The band of flutes began to play, *Spenser.*
To which a lady sung a *virrelay*:
And still at ev'ry close she would repeat
The burden of the song, the daisy is so sweet. *Dryden.*- VIRENT**, *adj.* [*virens*, Lat.] Green; not faded.
In these, yet fresh and *virent*, they carve out the figures
of men and women. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- VIRGE**, *n. f.* [*virga*, Lat. better *verge*, from *verge*, French.]
A dean's mace.
Suppose him now a dean compleat,
Devoutly looting in his seat;
The silver *virge*, with decent pride,
Stuck underneath his cushion side. *Swift.*
- VIRGIN**, *n. f.* [*virgo*, Fr. *virgo*, Lat.]
1. A maid; a woman unacquainted with men.
This aspect of mine hath fear'd the valiant;
The best regarded *virgins* of our clime
Have lov'd it too. *Shakefp.*
Senseless bauble!
Art thou a sedary for this act, and look't
So *virgin*-like without? *Shakefp. Cymbeline.*
The damsel was very fair, and a *virgin*. *Gen. xxiv. 16.*
Angelo is an adulterous thief,
An hypocrite, a *virgin* violator.
Much less can that have any place,
At which a *virgin* hides her face. *Shakefp.*
- 2. A woman not a mother. Unusual. *Cowley.*
Likely to Ceres in her prime,
Yet *virgin* of Proserpina from Jove. *Milton.*
- 3. Any thing untouched or unmingled.
Tapers of white wax, commonly called *virgin* wax, burn
with less smoke than common yellow wax. *Boyle.*
I have found *virgin* earth in the peat-marshes of
Cheshire. *Woodward.*
Below the upper was a deep bed of sand only, which I
weighed, together with the *virgin*-mould. *Derham.*
- 4. The sign of the zodiack in which the sun is in August.
Thence down again by Leo and the *Virgin*. *Milton.*
- VIRGIN**, *adj.* Besitting a virgin; suitable to a virgin; maidenly.
Can you blame her then, being a maid, yet robed over
with the *virgin* crimson of modesty, if she deny the appear-
ance of a naked blind boy. *Shakefp. Hen. V.*
What says the silver with her *virgin* hue? *Shakefp.*
With ease a brother o'ercame
The formal decencies of *virgin*-thame. *Cowley.*
- To **VIRGIN**, *v. n.* [a cant word.] To play the virgin.
A kiss
Long as my exile, sweet as my revenge!
I carried from thee, my dear; and my true lip
Hath *virgin'd* it e'er since. *Shakefp. Coriolanus.*
- VIRGINAL**, *adj.* [from *virgin*.] Maidenly; per-
taining to a virgin.
On the earth more fair was never seen,
Of chastity and honour *virginal*. *Fairy Queen.*
Tears *virginal*
Shall be to me even as the dew to fire;
And beauty, that the tyrant oft reclaims,
Shall to my flaming wrath be oil and flax. *Shakefp.*
Purity is a special part of this superstructure, restraining
of all desires of the flesh within the known limits of conju-
gal or *virginal* chastity. *Hammond's Fundamentals.*
- To **VIRGINAL**, *v. n.* To pat; to strike as on the virginal.
A cant word.
Still *virginal*ling upon thy palm. *Shakefp.*
- VIRGINAL**, *n. f.* [more usually *virginals*.] A musical in-
strument so called, because commonly used by young ladies.
The musician hath produced two means of straining strings.
The one is stopping them with the finger, as in the necks of
lutes and viols; the other is the shortness of the string, as in
harps and *virginals*. *Bacon.*
- VIRGINITY**, *n. f.* [*virginitas*, Lat.] Maidenhead; unacquain-
tance with man.
You do impeach your modesty too much,
To trust the opportunity of night,
And the ill counsel of a desert place,
With the rich worth of your *virginity*. *Shakefp.*
Natural *virginity* of itself is not a state more acceptable to
God; but that which is chosen in order to the conveniences
of religion, and separation from worldly incumbrances. *Taylor.*
- VIRILE**, *n. f.* [*virilis*, Lat.] Belonging to man; not puerile;
not feminine. *VIRILITY.*

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- VIRILITY**, *n. f.* [*virilitas*, Fr. *virilitas*, Lat. from *virile*.]
1. Manhood; character of man.
The lady made generous advances to the borders of
virility. *Rambler.*
2. Power of procreation.
The great climacterical was past, before they begat chil-
dren, or gave any testimony of their *virility*; for none begat
children before the age of sixty-five. *Brown.*- VIRMI'LION**, *n. f.* Properly *vermilion*. A red colour.
Egle, the fairest Nais of the flood, *Rescommen.*
With a *vermilion* dye his temples stain'd. *Rescommen.*
- VIR'TUAL**, *adj.* [*virtuel*, Fr. from *virtue*.] Having the effi-
cacy without the sensible or material part.
Metalline waters have *virtual* cold in them. Put there-
fore wood into smith's water, and try whether it will not
harden. *Bacon.*
Heat and cold have a *virtual* transition, without commu-
nication of substance. *Bacon.*
Love not the heav'nly spirits? And how their love
Expresses? by looks only? or, do they mix
Irradiance? *virtual*, or immediate touch? *Milton.*
Every kind that lives,
Fomented by his *virtual* pow'r, and warm'd. *Milton.*
Neither an actual or *virtual* intention of the mind, but only
that which may be gathered from the outward acts. *Stillingsfleet.*
- VIR'TUALITY**, *n. f.* [from *virtual*.] Efficacy.
In one grain of corn there lieth dormant a *virtuality* of
many other, and from thence sometimes proceed an hundred
ears. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- VIR'TUALLY**, *adv.* [from *virtual*.] In effect, though not formally.
They are *virtually* contained in other words still con-
tinued. *Hammond's Fundamentals.*
Such is our constitution, that the bulk of the people *vir-*
tually give their approbation to every thing they are bound to
obey. *Addison.*
- To **VIR'TUATE**, *v. a.* [from *virtue*.] To make efficacious.
Potable gold should be endued with a capacity of being
assimilated to the innate heat, and radical moisture; or at
least *virtuated* with a power of generating the said essen-
tials. *Harvey.*
- VIR'TUE**, *n. f.* [*virtus*, Lat.]
1. Moral goodness.
Either I'm mistaken, or there is *virtue* in that Falstaff. *Shakefp.*
If there's a power above us,
And that there is, all nature cries aloud
Through all her works, he must delight in *virtue*,
And that which he delights in must be happy. *Addison.*
Virtue only makes our bliss below.
The character of prince Henry is improved by *Shakefp.*
and through the veil of his vices and irregularities, we see a
dawn of greatness and *virtue*. *Shakefp. illustrated.*
- 2. A particular moral excellence.
In Belmont is a lady,
And she is fair, and fairer than that word,
Of wondrous *virtues*. *Shakefp. Merchant of Venice.*
Remember all his *virtues*,
And shew mankind that goodness is your care. *Addison.*
- 3. Medicinal quality.
All blest secrets,
All you unpublisch'd *virtues* of the earth,
Be aidant and remediate. *Shakefp. K. Lear.*
The virtuous bezoar is taken from the beast that feedeth
upon the mountains; and that without *virtue* from those that
feed in the valleys. *Bacon.*
- 4. Medicinal efficacy.
An essay writer must practise the chymical method, and
give the *virtue* of a full draught in a few drops. *Addison.*
- 5. Efficacy; power.
If neither words, nor herbs will do, I'll try stones; for
there's a *virtue* in them. *L'Estrange.*
Where there is a full purpose to please God, there, what
a man can do, shall, by *virtue* thereof, be accepted. *South.*
They are not sure, by *virtue* of syllogism, that the con-
clusion certainly follows from the premises. *Locke.*
This they shall attain, partly in *virtue* of the promise made
by God; and partly in *virtue* of piety. *Asterbury.*
He used to travel through Greece, by *virtue* of this fable,
which procured him reception in all the towns. *Addison.*
- 6. Acting power.
Jesus knowing that *virtue* had gone out of him, turned
him about. *Mark v. 30.*
- 7. Secret agency; efficacy, without visible or material action.
She moves the body, which the doth possels;
Yet no part toucheth, but by *virtue's* touch. *Davies.*
- 8. Bravery; valour.
Tru't to thy single *virtue*; for thy soldiers
Took their discharge. *Shakefp. K. Lear.*
The conquest of Palestine, with singular *virtue* they per-
formed, and held that kingdom some few generations. *Raleigh.*
- 9. Excellence; that which gives excellence.
In the Greek poets, as also in Plautus, the oeconomy of
poems is better observed than in Terence; who thought the

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- sole grace and *virtue* of their fable, the sticking in of sen-
tences, as ours do the forcing in of jests. *B. Johnson.*- 10. One of the orders of the celestial hierarchy.
Thrones, domination, principdoms, *virtues*, pow'rs. *Milt.*
A winged *virtue* through th' etherial sky,
From orb to orb unwearied dost thou fly. *Tickell.*
- VIR'TUELESS**, *adj.* [from *virtue*.]
1. Wanting virtue; deprived of virtue.
2. Not having efficacy; without operating qualities.
All second causes, together with nature herself, without
that operative faculty which God gave them, would become
altogether silent, *virtueless*, and dead. *Raleigh.*
Virtueless the wilt all herbs and charms,
Wherewith false men increase their patients harms. *Fairfax.*
Some would make those glorious creatures *virtueless*. *Hakewill.*
- VIR'TUOSO**, *n. f.* [Italian.] A man skilled in antique or na-
tural curiosities; a man studious of painting, statuary, or
architecture.
Methinks those generous *virtuosi* dwell in a higher region
than other mortals. *Glanville.*
Virtuosi, the Italians call a man who loves the noble arts,
and is a critic in them. And amongst our French painters,
the word *virtuous* is understood in the same signification. *Dryd.*
This building was beheld with admiration by the *virtuosi*
of that time. *Tatler, N^o. 52.*
Showers of rain are now met with in every water-work;
and the *virtuosi* of France covered a little vault with arti-
ficial snow. *Addison.*
- VIR'TUOUS**, *adj.* [from *virtue*.]
1. Morally good.
If his occasion were not *virtuous*,
I should not urge it half so faithfully. *Shakefp. Hamlet.*
Virtuous and holy, be thou conqueror. *Shakefp. Hamlet.*
What she wills to do or say,
Is wisest, *virtuous*, discreetest, best. *Milton.*
Favour'd of heav'n, who finds
One *virtuous* rarely found,
That in domestick good combines:
Happy that house! his way to peace is smooth. *Milton.*
- 2. [Applied to women.] Chaste.
Mistress Ford, the modest wife, the *virtuous* creature, that
hath the jealous fool to her husband! *Shakefp.*
- 3. Done in consequence of moral goodness.
Nor love is always of a vicious kind,
But oft to *virtuous* acts inflames the mind. *Dryden.*
- 4. Efficacious; powerful.
With one *virtuous* touch, th' arch-chemic sun,
Produces, with terrestrial humour mix'd,
Here in the dark, so many precious things. *Milton.*
- 5. Having wonderful or eminent properties.
Out of his hand,
That *virtuous* steel he rudely snatch'd away. *Fairy Queen.*
Lifting up his *virtuous* staff on high,
He smote the sea, which calmed was with speed. *Spenser.*
He own'd that *virtuous* ring and glass. *Milton.*
- 6. Having medicinal qualities.
Some observe that there is a *virtuous* bezoar, and another
without virtue; the *virtuous* is taken from the beast that
feedeth where there are theriacal herbs; and that without
virtue, from those that feed where no such herbs are. *Bacon.*
The ladies fought around
For *virtuous* herbs, which, gather'd from the ground,
They squeez'd the juice; and cooling ointment made. *Dryd.*
- VIR'TUOUSLY**, *adv.* [from *virtuous*.] In a virtuous manner;
according to the rules of virtue.
The Gods are my witnesses, I desire to do *virtuously*. *Sidney.*
In sum, they taught the world no less *virtuously* how to
die, than they had done before how to live. *Hooker.*
They that mean *virtuously*, and yet do so,
The devil their virtue tempts not, they tempt heav'n. *Shak.*
Not from grey hairs authority doth flow,
Nor from bald heads, nor from a wrinkled brow;
But our past life, when *virtuously* spent,
Must to our age those happy fruits present. *Denham.*
The coffee-man has a little daughter four years old, who
has been *virtuously* educated. *Addison.*
- VIR'TUOUSNESS**, *n. f.* [from *virtuous*.] The state or character
of being virtuous.
Many other adventures are intermeddled; as the love of
Britomert, and *virtuousness* of Belphebe; and the lascivious-
ness of Helenora. *Spenser.*
- VIRULENCE**, *n. f.* [from *virulent*.] Mental poison; malig-
nity; acrimony of temper; bitterness.
Disputes in religion are managed with *virulence* and bitter-
ness. *Decay of Piety.*
It infills into their minds the utmost *virulence*, instead of
that charity which is the perfection and ornament of reli-
gion. *Addison.*
The whigs might easily have maintained a majority among
the clergy, if they had not too much encouraged this in-
temperance of speech, and *virulence* of pen, in the most pro-
fitable of their party. *Swift.*